

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 03227 01 OF 02 271238Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 OPR-02 AID-05 A-01
OC-06 CCO-00 OMB-01 /080 W
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O 271150Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7580
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 3227

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, AF
SUBJECT: AFGHAN GOVERNMENT ARRESTS TOP LEADERSHIP OF KHALQ
COMMUNIST PARTY

REFS: A. KABUL 3224 B. KABUL 3223

1. SUMMARY. ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 25, AFGHAN POLICE
AUTHORITIES ARRESTED SEVEN TOP LEADERS OF THE CENTRAL
COMMITTEE OF THE PRO-SOVIET, COMMUNIST KHALQ PARTY. THE
FOLLOWING EVENING, RADIO KABUL ANNOUNCED THE ARRESTS, CITING
THE PUBLIC ORDER AND SECURITY PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION.
HAVING LET "A HUNDRED FLOWERS BLOOM," IN TOLERATING
PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS OF KHALQ ANGER AND SORROW FOLLOWING
THE APRIL 17 MURDER OF MIR AKBAR KHAIBAR, THE PARTY'S
IDEOLOGUE, THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA)
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PAGE 02 KABUL 03227 01 OF 02 271238Z

APPARENTLY DECIDED TO CLAMP DOWN ON THE COMMUNIST
MOVEMENT. JUDGING FROM THE MASSIVE MILITARY CONFLICT
NOW OCCURRING IN THE CITY (REFTELS), THIS CASTING OF
THE DIE HAS TERMINATED THE PAST FICTION OF PARCHAMIST-
KHALQ SUPPORT FOR -- OR NEUTRALITY TOWARD -- THE DAOUD
REGIME. END SUMMARY.

2. ON APRIL 26, KABUL RADIO ANNOUNCED THE ARREST OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE PRO-SOVIET, COMMUNIST KHALQ PARTY OF AFGHANISTAN: NUR MOHAMMAD TARAHI, BABRAK KARMAL, DR. SHAH WALI, DESTAGIR PANJSHIRI, ABDUL HAKIM SHAR'E JOUZANI, HAFIZULLAH AMIN, AND DR. ZAMIR SAFI. THE ANNOUNCEMENT, WHICH DID NOT IDENTIFY THE POLITICAL AFFILIATION OF THE ARRESTED KHALQISTS, ACCUSED THEM OF ANTI-CONSTITUTIONAL ACTS AGAINST THE DOMESTIC SECURITY OF THE STATE. SPECIFICALLY CITED WERE "THE COMMUNIST QUOTES, SLOGANS, SPEECHES, POEMS, ACTIONS, AND VIOLATIONS CARRIED OUT DURING THE ACCOMPANYING OF THE COFFIN AND THE BURIAL CEREMONIES FOR MIR AKBAR KHAIBAR." CITING THESE ACTS AS PUNISHABLE UNDER THE CRIMINAL CODE, THE GOA SAID IT WAS CARRYING OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER ARTICLES 46 AND 47 OF THE 1977 CONSTITUTION. THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT ADDED THAT ADDITIONAL PEOPLE WHOSE ARREST HAS BEEN ORDERED ARE BEING SOUGHT.

3. ARTICLE 46 READS: BEGIN

QUOTE ADHERENCE TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, LOYALTY TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE REVOLUTION OF SARATAN 26, OF THE YEAR 1352, AND TO THE REPUBLICAN ORDER, RESPECT FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, OBEDIENCE TO THE LAWS, OBSERVANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER AND SECURITY, PROTECTION OF THE INTERESTS OF THE HOMELAND, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KABUL 03227 01 OF 02 271238Z

AND PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL LIFE IS THE DUTY OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN. END QUOTE

4. ARTICLE 47 READS: BEGIN

QUOTE NO ONE CAN HARM NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, NATIONAL UNITY, AND THE DICTATES OF THE INTERESTS OF THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE, OR THE OBJECTIVES OF THE REVOLUTION OF SARATAN 26, OF THE YEAR 1352, BY THE EXERCISE OF THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS EMBODIED IN THIS CONSTITUTION. END QUOTE

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PAGE 01 KABUL 03227 02 OF 02 271252Z

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CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KABUL 3227

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

5. THE ALL-ENCOMPASSING LANGUAGE IN TWO ARTICLES CITED BY THE REGIME AUTHORIZES VIRTUALLY ANY GOVERNMENTAL ACTION ON INTERNAL SECURITY GROUNDS. SUCH CONSIDERATIONS OBVIOUSLY TRANSCEND THE CONSTITUTION'S GUARANTEES OF FREE SPEECH (ARTICLE 38) AND FREE ASSEMBLY (ARTICLE 39).

6. ACCORDING TO REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED, BABRAK ANDTARAKI MADE INFLAMMATORY STATEMENTS DURING LAST WEEK'S FUNERAL FORMALITIES FOR KHAIBAR. ONE SOURCE STATES THAT TARAKI SAID "OUR AIM IS TO BRING THE REAL REVOLUTION TO THE COUNTRY, AND TEACH A LESSON TO OUR ENEMIES THAT WE ARE NOT AFRAID OF AVENGING THE BLOOD OF KHAIBAR." ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, TARAKI ALSO BLASTED "RIGHTIST REACTIONARIES WHO CALL THEMSELVES 'TRUE PATRIOTS'." ANOTHER REPORT CLAIMS THAT ONE OF THE KHALQ LEADERS CONDEMNED THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS INABILITY TO PROTECT THE COUNTRY'S CITIZENS, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KABUL 03227 02 OF 02 271252Z

AND ASSERTED THAT THE PARTY WOULD, AS A RESULT OF KHAIBAR'S DEATH, HAVE TO TAKE APPROPRIATE SECURITY MEASURES OF ITS OWN. A "SHABNAHMA" (UNDERGROUND "NIGHT LETTER") CALLING FOR A CESSATION OF GOVERNMENTAL OPPRESSION OF THE KHALQ WAS ALSO CIRCULATED ON THE NIGHT OF APRIL 25.

7. COMMENT. THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION REINFORCES THE THEORY THAT THE REGIME DELIBERATELY ALLOWED LAST WEEK'S LARGE LEFTIST DEMONSTRATION IN ORDER TO GIVE THE KHALQIST LEADERSHIP ENOUGH ROPE TO HAND ITSELF. AN AFGHAN

GENERAL IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT THE GOA HAD DECIDED TO "LET A HUNDRED FLOWERS BLOOM" -- AN OMINOUS REFERENCE TO THE MAOIST INTERNAL CENTRAL STRATEGY OF SEVERAL YEARS AGO. COUPLED WITH THE REGIME'S ANTI-RIGHTIST STANCE AT THE TIME IT RELEASED ITS REVELATIONS REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION OF PLANNING MINISTER KHURRAM, THE AUTHORITIES CURRENT FORCEFUL MOVE AGAINST THE LEFT CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES THAT DOUD'S REGIME IS DETERMINED TO STIFLE WHAT IT CONSIDERS RADICAL OPPOSITION FROM ANY QUARTER. FURTHERMORE, BY COUCHING ITS MOVE IN CONSTITUTIONAL TERMS, AND BY OPENLY DISCLOSING ITS ACTIONS, THE REGIME CLEARLY BELIEVES THAT IT IS ON SOLID LEGAL GROUND, AND THAT IT CANNOT BE CONDEMNED FOR MOVING AGAINST INDIVIDUALS WHO PUBLICLY CALL FOR ANTI-REGIME ACTION. HOW DEEP THE REGIME HAD PLANNED TO EXTEND ITS ANTI-LEFT CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE KHALQIST MEMBERSHIP IS, OF COURSE, NOT YET KNOWN, BUT BY DECAPITATING THE PARTY'S ORGANIZATION, DAOUD WAS APPARENTLY CONFIDENT THAT HE BE ABLE TO HANDLE ANY COUNTER MOVES THAT THE RANK-AND-FILE MIGHT UNDERTAKE. A TOUGH, WELL DISCIPLINED MOSCOW-DIRECTED COMMUNIST PARTY, THE KHALQ HAS APPARENTLY DECIDED TO FIGHT.

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